

Date

Mr. Chester Cedars
General Counsel
St. Martin Parish Government
415 S. Main St.
St. Martinville, La. 70582

Re: Board Docket No. 2015-1387

Dear Mr. Cedars:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its February 19, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Mr. Hebert Thibodeaux from continuing to serve as an appointed member of the Planning and Zoning Commission once his son-in-law, Chris Tauzin, is sworn in as a member of the St. Martin Parish Council. You stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission members are appointed by the Parish Council. You added that the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission serve without compensation. You stated that Mr. Thibodeaux has two years remaining on his current appointment.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, under the facts presented, there are no provisions in the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics which would prohibit Mr. Thibodeaux from serving the remainder of his term on the Planning and Zoning Commission. However, after the expiration of his current term, Mr. Thibodeaux should be advised that La. R.S. 42:1113A would prohibit him from being appointed by the Parish Council while his son-in-law serves on the Parish Council. La. R.S. 42:1113A provides that no public servant, or a member of such public servant's immediate family shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the public servant's agency. Therefore, Mr. Thibodeaux would be prohibited from being re-appointed by the Parish Council as long as Mr. Tauzin, serves on the Parish Council.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

cc. Chris Tauzin
Hebert Thibodeaux

Suzanne Quinlan Mooney
For the Board